Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06268 171251Z

65
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

SSM-05 ACDA-10 NEAE-00 /093 W
---------- 044210
P R 171157Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9611
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6268

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 17 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS CHTAURA MEETING

1. SEPT. 17 AL-BAATH HEADLINED: "MEETING IN CHTAURA TODAY BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA, LEBANON AND THE RISISTANCE. MEETING TO DISCUSS STOPPING THE FIGHTING, ENDING ARMED MANIFESTATIONS, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO A TIMETABLE." AL-THAWRAH HEADLINES ADDED THAT PRES. SARKIS, YASIR ARAFAT, AND SYRIAN DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER NAJI JAMIL WOULD ATTEND MEETING.

2. REPORTING STORY BY SANA NOTED ITS POLITICLA EDITOR HAD LEARNED THAT RIPARTITE SYRIAN-LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE MORNING SEPT. 17 IN CHTAURA. REPORT SAID
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 06268 171251Z

AL REP AL-KHOLI HAD ANNOUNCED MEETING IN BEIRUT STATING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THAT IT WAS IN FURTHERANCE OF DAMASCUS AGREEMENT OF JULY 29. AL-KHOLI NOTED THAT MEETING WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE FOR QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE TO SIGN AGREEMENT, BUT THIS HAD BEEN PREVENTED BY DISAGREEMENT OVER COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE. CONSEQUENTLY, CHTAURA MEETING WAS SUBSTITUTED. AL-KHOLI STATED THAT MEETING WOULD DISCUSS THREE PRINCIPAL ISSUES: STOPPING THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON, ENDING ARMED MANIFESTATIONS THROUGHOUT LEBANON, AND APPLYING CAIRO AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO AGREED UPON TIMETABLE. REGARDING SUPERVISION OF AGREEMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION, AL-KHOLI SAID NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT SO THAT BREACHES OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. ON QUESTION OF PRES. FRANGIEH'S RECENT DECREES, AL-KHOLI STATED HE WOULD NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL LEBANESE POLITICS, BUT PERSONALLY WISHED IT HAD NOT HAPPENED AT THIS TIME.

3. PRESS REPORTED THAT PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL HAD MET SEPT. 16 IWHT FONMIN KHADDAM AND PRES. ASAD FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO WHERE HE HAD BEEN AT PRES. SADAT'S INVITATION. GEMAYEL RETURNED TO BEIRUT EVENING SEPT. 16.

4. ARTICLE REPORTED THAT "CENTRAL COMMAND OF FRONT OF LEBANESE NATIONAL AND NATIONALIST FORCES AND PARTIES" HAD MET IN CHTAURA TO EXAMINE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN LEBANON. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF POPULAR FORCES WOULD BE HELD TO RALLY MASSES BEHIND SOLUTION BASED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DAMASCUS AGREEMENT. FRONT CONSIDERED THAT RESTORATION OF NORMAL LIFE IN LEBANON DEPENDED ON CONSOLIDATING RELATIONS BETWEEN LEBANON, PALESTINIANS AND SYRIA.

5. PRESS REPORTED STATEMENT BY LEBANESE DEPUTY HAMID DAKROUH, SECGEN OF LEBANESE SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN WHICH HE "EXPOSED POSITIONS AND PRACTICES OF OUTLAWS AND PRETNEDERS OF ARABISM AND THE LEFT AND THEIR DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO CAST DOUBT ON SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO SEEK SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS." PRESS ALSO QUOTED STATEMENT BY HENRI LAHHOUD, GOVERNOR OF THE BEKAA, THAT "SYRIA'S STAND UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PRES. ASAD CONFIRMS THAT LEBANON AND
UNCLASSIFIED

SYRIA ARE TWINS." HE ALSO SAID THAT SITUATION IN BEKAA WAS NORMAL AND SECURITY BEING MAINTAINED "THANKS TO THE ALERT SYRIAN FORCES."

6. ARTICLE IN AL-BAATH WARNED THAT DESPITE OPTIMISM THAT CURRENT EFFORTS WOULD PRODCUE AN EFFECTIVE PEACE FORMULA, CATUION WAS ALSO REQUIRED BECAUSE THERE WERE STILL THOSE, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LEBANESE ARENA, WHO WERE NOT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PLEASED WITH COURSE OF EVENTS. THSHRIIN CALLED FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF SYRIA "BECAUSE ITS FORCE IS THE ARAB'S FORCE AND THAT OF ALL ANTI-COLONIST FORCES. WE MUST RALLY OURSELVES FURTHER AROUND OUR NATIONAL AND ANTI-COLONIST POLICY AND AROUND OUR LEADERSHIP WHICH RESISTS THE SINAI ACCORD AND THE CONSPIRACY." SECOND TISHRIIN ARTICLE NOTED THAT SEARCH FOR ARAB SETTLEMENT OF ME CRISIS SHOULD BE BASED UPON REJECTION OF KISSINGER'S TWO STEPS, I.E., REJECTION OF EGYPT'S ISOLATION AND REJECTION OF THE RETURN OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE.

7. COMMENT: TODAY'S PRESS CONTAINS FIRST PUBLIC SYRIAN MENTION OF CHTAURA MEETING DESPITE FACT THAT PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOMETIME. SARG PROBABLY WISHES TO BE SURE MEETING WOULD OCCUR BEFORE PUBLICIZING IT. PRESS ALSO CONTAINS MORE THAN THE USUAL QUOTA OF EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS LEBANESE SOURCES FOR SYRIAN EFFORTS. THIRDLY, THERE ARE NOATTACKS AGAINST EGYPT. ON CONTRARY, ARTICLE ON GEMAYEL VISIT REPORTED HE HAD COME TO CAIRO "ON INVITATION OF PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT", AND TISHRIIN EDITORIAL CALLED FOR ENDING EGYPT'S ISOLATION. MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC06268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-0848
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760950/aaaabqof.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEPTEMBER 17 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS CHTAURA MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SY, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006